

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present remarks are being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 14-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 25, 26 and 29 are independent. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 25 and 26 are hereby amended. Claim 29 is new. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 4, 12 and 13 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1-3, 25 and 26 have been amended to incorporate features of claim 13 which was indicated as allowable. Claim 10, which was indicated as allowable, has been written in independent form as new claim 29.

Therefore, independent claims 1-3, 25, 26 and 29 are patentable.

The other claims in this application are each dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

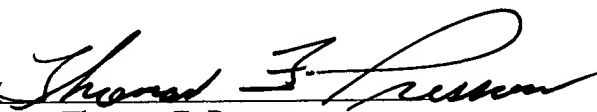
CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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